REMARKS

Claims 1-13 have been cancelled in favor of new claims 14-24, which better define the subject matter Applicants regard as the invention.

Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

If any issues remain which may best be resolved through a telephone communication, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 31, 2005

JEL/DWW/att

James E. Ledbetter

Registration No. 28,732

Attorney Docket No. <u>L9289.04195</u>

STEVENS DAVIS, MILLER & MOSHER, L.L.P.

1615 L Street, N.W., Suite 850

P.O. Box 34387

Washington, D.C. 20043-4387

Telephone: (202) 785-0100

Facsimile: (202) 408-5200